

other threatened wetland fauna. The results of this survey can then be used to recommend which wetlands should be given some protection by the Malagasy authorities in the context of the Ramsar Convention (Koester 1989) (still to be ratified in Madagascar). Currently there is no freshwater wetland protected in Madagascar (Nicoll & Langrand 1989).

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THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE NAME OF THE BRITISH RACE OF THE CHAFFINCH

In *Falco* 5, 1909, p. 13, Pastor Otto Kleinschmidt described an intersexual variant of the Chaffinch from western Europe (Germany and the British Isles) under the trinomen *Fringilla caelebs gengleri*, form. nov., designating as its type an adult ♂ from Hampstead, London, dated 22 June 1869 (*ex* Bowdler Sharpe collection). In 1933 the Dutch workers P. A. Hens & J. G. van Marle showed that the Chaffinches of the British Isles warranted recognition subspecifically on the browner, less vinaceous, red colour of the ear-coverts and underside in breeding males, adopting for them Kleinschmidt's name of 1909. Later, Witherby, *Handbook of British Birds*, vol. 1, 1938, pp. 104-107, Vaurie, *Birds of the Palearctic Fauna*, Passeriformes, 1959, p. 595, and other senior authors adopted Hens and van Marle's proposal and

recognised the British birds as discrete from those of the continent under the name *F. c. gengleri* Kleinschmidt, overlooking the fact that the said name of 1909 is an infrasubspecific epithet, and as such is not available in nomenclature.

Article 50 (c) (i) of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 3rd edition, 1985, specifies that "if an infrasubspecific name [proposed prior to 1961] that otherwise satisfies the criteria of availability is used for a species or subspecies, the author is the one who first so uses it". Consequently, the trinomen *F. c. gengleri* is to be attributed to Hens & van Marle, who elevated Kleinschmidt's form. nov. to that of a subspecies in *Orgaan der Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen*, 6, No. 2, 1933, pp. 49-58, the type-locality Hampstead, London, England. Apart from the indigenous British Isles populations, *F. c. gengleri* has been introduced to the southwestern Cape Province of South Africa and the islands of New Zealand. The type of the subspecies dealt with here is in the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, and is No. 399 in the Kleinschmidt collection housed in that centre.

I am grateful to Dr Renate van den Elzen of the Museum Alexander Koenig for her ready help in this enquiry.

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A NEW NAME FOR *MYRMECIZA IMMACULATA BERLEPSCHI*
(FORMICARIIDAE)

With the transfer of *Pyriglena* (later *Sipia*) *berlepschi* Hartert, 1898, to the genus *Myrmeciza* (see Robbins & Ridgely 1991, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 111: 11-18), the name *Myrmeciza berlepschi* Ridgway, 1909 (now used for a valid subspecies of *M. immaculata*) becomes preoccupied. We therefore rename the latter form as follows:

Myrmeciza immaculata macrorhyncha, nom. nov. for *Myrmeciza berlepschi* Ridgway, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 22 (1909): 74, preoccupied in *Myrmeciza* by *Pyriglena berlepschi* Hartert, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 7 (1898): xxix. We chose the name *macrorhyncha*, as the large bill is one of the prominent characters that distinguishes trans- from cis-Andean birds.

We thank Niels Krabbe for pointing out this nomenclatural problem, and, once again, we are indebted to Kenneth Parkes for his inestimable advice on nomenclatural protocol.

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